



Crystal Pistol entertainers sing 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' in Six Flags show-stopper

Fireworks, Laser Show, Spectacular Rides: Six Flags Always Offers Something New

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At night, you can sit outside the concert pavilion at Six Flags and watch a huge display of fireworks brightening the sky over the Scream Machine.

The great roller coaster itself is ablaze with light and, as one rocket after another pops into an umbrella of sparkles, the whole spectacle is reflected in the tranquil water of an adjacent pond.

This is a surpassingly pleasant experience. In years past, such treats were reserved for kings and queens.

It's typical that the park is always putting forth an extra touch. No matter how many times you have been to Six Flags, there is always something new to astonish you.

Through the remainder of this month, the park has an extravaganza rather ominously entitled "Laser Worlds Multi-Media Space Odyssey," for which the concert pavilion is converted to a theater four times nightly.

The show virtually defies description, but is a wonderful treat for the eyes and ears. It opens with a filmed flying-saucer episode, accompanied by music from "Close Encounters."

Soon, the celluloid vision of outer-space vistas is joined by a tiny laser-light pattern focused on the middle of the screen. Not long afterward, the laser expands and assumes a countless variety of shapes. Music by such groups as Electric Light Orchestra, Foreigner and Chic

provide the inspiration for intricate, multi-colored, undulating patterns.

The presentation ends with an outer-space battle, accompanied by music from "Star Wars." On the screen, a film depicts galactic battleships soaring to a rendezvous, while explosions of laser light suggest the fury of war. The whole theater is turned into a battleground during this sequence, with green laser beams bouncing, in stark bolts, off a host of reflectors.

All things considered, this presentation, which lasts less than half an hour, is one of the most lavish uses of lasers yet seen here. Even ELO's own light show was no more spectacular than this.

A visit to the Crystal Pistol finds its revue professional and polished and a treasure trove of fun.

The Crystal Pistol presentation is divided into three portions. The first segment is a minstrel show, with a dozen male and female minstrels strutting their stuff.

The second sequence is a World War II "Hollywood Canteen," with jitterburgs, Boogie Woogie bugle boys and beauty queens in extravagant Ziegfeld-style costumes.

The concluding portion is a modern-day musical, played in "Chorus Line" fashion amid a spectacular setting of mirrors and lights.

The atmosphere in the Crystal Pistol is vivacious, but not overbearingly so.

The Contemporary Theatre at Six

Flags has a show ideal for youngsters. The production has lots of magic, including a master of ceremonies who disappears from center stage and turns up in a basket lowered from the ceiling.

As ever, the rides offer an abundance of possibilities for adventure. Daring souls tackle the Mind Bender, the world's only triple-loop roller coaster. There are few experiences which combine fun and terror so brilliantly.

The Great American Scream Machine, which was the world's tallest, longest and fastest when constructed in '73, is still an unforgettable tooth-rattling excursion.

The Dahlenega Mine Train, the park's oldest roller coaster, is even more hair-raising at night than during the day. At one point in the ride, the train rolls over the crest of a hill, then sweeps down into a tunnel, which is dark as pitch. The car hurtles with breathtaking speed through the blackness.

The Highland Swing is Six Flags' new attraction. A \$300,000 ride, the Highland Swing is not a tame experience. Riders are buckled into their seats. As the machine cranks up, the swings are soon circling perhaps a dozen feet off the ground and at a rapid pace.

Ultimately, the core of the machine tilts and the swings begin moving in an orbit that takes the rider up and down at the same time that he continues to move in a circle. This is certainly the most exotic swing ride anyone ever took.